sent any team to investigate the matter; and

(f) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some newspaper reports alleged that there is an increase in cancer cases and reduction in vegetation in Gopalpur where the Orissa Sand Complex (OSCOM) is located. These reports are attributed to unnamed doctors and unnamed agricultural scientists and are not based on scientific facts. The OSCOM operations do not pollute the enviornment with radioactivity.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Alleged Irregularities in P.P.L.

2185. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware of the gross irregularities in the functioning of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government have investigated into the matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of PPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). A number of cases of irregularities have been noticed in Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL). Some of them are being enquired into by the CBI and some by the Vigilance Department of PPL. In two cases, CBI have not found evidence for proceeding with prosecution and the matter is further being examined. Action has also been taken against some officials found guilty of irregularities.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to check irregularities. These include:

i) appointment of a senior IPS Officer as Chief Vigilance Officer;

ii) drawing up of a schedule for preventive vigilance in the company in sensitive areas;

iii) review of policies and procedures to plug loopholes/lacunae in respect of tenders, contracts, purchases, etc; and

iv) strengthening of internal audit system.

Measures have also been taken to improve the physical performance of PPL which, inter-alia, include ensuring availability of raw materials; proper maintenance of plant and machinery; formation and implementation of proper monitoring system at all levels for fixing accountability via- avis targets; enforcement of discipline, etc. These measures have resulted in significant improvement in the performance during the past eight months of the current financial year and capacity utilisation has been about 90%.

[*Translation*]

Growth Rate of Orissa

2186. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the growth rate of Orissa is much less as compared to the growth rate of other states;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the growth rate of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATEOF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R.BHARDWAJ): (a) The growth rate of Orissa for the year 1989-90 (in terms of the annual percentage increase in the Net State Domestic Product at constant prices) is 6.03%. It is less than that of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tripura and more than that of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) Growth rates differ among States for a variety of reasons some among them being the historically uneven development of the infrastructure, industry and entrepreneurship, the promotional measures and incentives offered, and the year to year variations in rainfall and the consequent droughts and floods.

(c) Orissa State has been implementing development plans for increasing the growth rate. These plans include investment/outlays for the development of infrastructure, industry, agriculutre, irrigation, rural development, education, health, etc., and direct employment generation programmes to increase the income of poor people.

'No Industry Districts' in Orissa

2187. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) the names of the 'no industry districts' in Orissa;

(b) the schemes chalked out by the Government in regard to the setting up of industries in these districts; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHIR P.J.KURIEN) : (a) Balasore, Phulbani and Bolangir are the 'No Industry Districts' in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme of Central Assistance for development of infrastructural facilities in 'No Industry' districts introduced in 1983, the Central Government have approved the following growth centres on the recommendation of the State Government of Orissa:

District	*Growth Centre*
Balasore	Balasore
Phulbani	Manmunda
Bolangir	Bolangir

A sum of Rs. 250 lakhs has so far been released to the State Govt. as Centre's share. The above scheme is no longer in operation, but commitments made to the State Govt. under the Scheme will be honoured as and when the claims are furnished by the State Governments. Under the New Growth Centre Scheme introduced in 1988, the above three districts do not have any Growth Centres.

Development Schemes for Orissa

2188. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state: